

**MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
UTILITY DIVISION
AGENDA NO. 98-11-16**

Date Prepared: November 12, 1998
For Work Week Commencing: November 16, 1998
Business Meeting: November 16, 1998, 10:00 a.m.

General Introduction This agenda is the Commission's Utility Division agenda for the work week designated. In the later part of each week (generally, Thursday by 2:00 p.m.) prior to the work week to which an agenda pertains, the agenda is posted on the public information bulletin board at the Commission offices, deposited in the mail directed to all persons who have properly requested notice by mail, placed on the state electronic bulletin board, and posted to the Public Service Commission's worldwide web site located at <http://www.psc.mt.gov>.

Place of Meetings All meetings are held at the Commission offices, 1701 Prospect Avenue, Helena, Montana, unless otherwise noted.

Inquiries General inquiries concerning this Utility Division agenda and subscribing to notice by mail may be made to Dennis Crawford at (406) 444-6182 or Dan Elliott at (406) 444-6187. They may refer inquiries to another person within the agency.

Accommodation for Persons with Disabilities Anyone needing an accommodation for physical, hearing, or sight impairment in order to attend a scheduled meeting should contact the Commission secretary at (406) 444-6199 sufficiently prior to the meeting to allow accommodations to be made.

Work Sessions All items identified below are for Commission discussion or action on the day designated (Dan).

1. Great Falls Gas Docket D98.9.213 – Great Falls Gas Tracker Interim Order – Review and/or act on Interim Order (11/17/98)
2. Water Service Line Rule L-98.3.1-RUL – Water Service Line Rule Modification – To adopt final rule and approve filing w/Secretary of State (11/17/98)
3. MPC Docket D98.8.183 – Suspension of MPC LTQF-1 Tariff – To get direction on MPC's request and to review the matter generally (11/17/98)
4. USWC Docket D98.10.243 – Investigation of USWC "Custom Choice" – To consider appropriate action (11/17/98)
5. Consumer Information & Protection Rules L-98.10.5-RUL – Consumer Information & Protection Rules for the Restructured Natural Gas & Electricity Industries – Obtain commission direction/action on formally noticing the proposed rules (11/17/98)

6. Southern Montana Telephone Docket D97.11.225 – Southern Montana Telephone Company switch access rates – To discuss issuing the final order (11/17/98)
7. USWC Docket D98.8.192 – USWC Permanent Pricing Docket – To discuss the procedural schedule (11/17/98)

Weekly Scheduling Meeting – Will be held at 9:45 a.m. on the day of the Business Meeting

Action Items All items identified below are for action at the Commission business meeting.

1. AT&T – Docket N98.10.257 (Tina)

On October 30, 1998, AT&T filed Advice 98-19L to revise existing language in the AT&T Digital Link section of the local exchange service price list.

2. US WEST COMMUNICATIONS – Docket 98.11.258 (Vicki)

On October 22, 1998, US West filed a tariff page for a Holiday Promotion for residential customers. The promotion allows a \$15 credit, per line, to reduce the nonrecurring charge for customers subscribing to an additional flat rated access line. The offer is limited to two additional lines per customer location. The promotional period is from November 23, 1998 through January 30, 1999.

3. CENTRAL MONTANA COMMUNICATIONS – Docket 98.11.260 (Vicki)

On November 2, 1998, Central Montana Communications filed tariff pages for a special promotion proposal to reduce the nonrecurring installation charge of \$35.30 for the installation of second phone lines to \$17.65 for the promotional period of December, 1998.

4. Bell Atlantic and GET Corp. – N98.10.245 (Karen)

Proposed merger. The merger combines two parent companies and their subsidiaries which provide long distance service in Montana as resellers. This was a notice item on Agenda 98-11-2 and no comments have been received.

5. UniDial Holdings, inc. & Metracom Corp. – N98.10.244 (Karen)

UniDial will acquire Metracom. Metracom is a nondominant carrier providing telecommunications service in Montana pursuant to registration. The proposed acquisition will be accomplished through a merger whereby Metracom will be a wholly-owned subsidiary of UniDial and will continue to operate under the Metracom name. This was a notice item on Agenda 98-11-2 and no comments have been received.

Notice Items All items identified below are noticed for public participation purposes. Unless otherwise stated in the text of the notice, the items will be action items on the next following agenda or a subsequent agenda and participation may be had by submitting written comments to the Public Service Commission, 1701 Prospect Avenue, P.O. Box 202601, Helena, Montana, 59620-2601, within 5 calendar days following publication of this agenda.

1. SPRINT COMMUNICATIONS CO. – Docket N98.11.261 (Nina)

On November 5, 1998, Sprint filed changes to its Montana Price List No. 1. The purpose of this filing is to: restructure the rates for Residential Sprint Service Business MTS, and Stand-Alone FONCARD calls; decrease Sprint Business Flex 50 and 500 Dial 1, Toll Free and FONCARD Rates; and to make minor text changes.

2. ALLNET COMM. dba FRONTIER COMM. – Docket 98.11.263 (Nina)

On November 5, 1998, Allnet Communication Services dba Frontier Communications Services, Inc., filed changes to its PSC Montana Tariff No. 1. This filing increases the billing increments applicable to the following service options: Maxcess III, Vantage, Homesaver, Multipoint 800, Product One (switched and dedicated) and Product One Multipoint 800, Access Travel and Product One calls placed through Access Travel. This filing also increases the per call surcharge applicable to calls placed through Access Travel or Spectrum.

3. MCI TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORP. – Docket N98.11.267 (Nina)

On November 6, 1998, MCI Telecommunications filed Transmittal Letter No. 98-19, reflecting a minor text change to Option DD (MCI WorldCom On-Net Services).

4. WAXS, INC. and Cherry Communications, Inc. – N98.10.237 (Karen)

On September 21, 1998 the Commission received a joint application from WAXS, INC. and Cherry Communications, Inc. requesting approval whereby WAXS, INC. (WAXS) would acquire ownership and control of Cherry Communications, Inc. (CCI). CCI is authorized to provide telecommunications service on a resale basis in Montana. WAXS is a provider of wireline and wireless switching, transport, and access products for the global telecommunications market place.

5. Calls for Less, Inc. to ILD Telecommunications, Inc. – N98.11.259(Karen)

On November 2, 1998 the Commission received notification of the transfer control from Calls for Less, Inc. (CFL) to ILD Telecommunications, Inc. (ILD). CFL is currently certified to provide intrastate telecommunications service in Montana and will continue to operate as a telecommunications service provider in Montana after the transfer of control. The transfer of control is transparent to consumers in Montana and will not adversely affect the provision of telecommunication services in Montana.

6. US WEST – Docket N98.11.262 (Bonnie)

On November 5 1998, US WEST filed Tariff Transmittal 98-49 to reduce the price for Custom Choice feature package both for the standard price and the competitive zone pricing. USWC states the price changes are necessary to adjust the package prices due to the 1FR rate re-balancing price increase. USWC requests the filing be approved on an interim basis.

Competitive zone 12-month package is increased to \$21.95 (from \$19.95, an interim approved rate). A promotional filing provides a \$2/month credit (applicable on months remaining on a contract) to customers who previously purchased the package for \$19.95.

Standard pricing adjusts the package rate to reflect the \$ 1.35/month rate re-balancing increase.

Staff recommends interim approval with final consideration after Commission action on the pending CustomChoice dockets.

Information Items All items identified below are for information only.

Tentative Action Items for Agenda 98-11-23

Sprint Communications Co. – Docket N98.11.261 (Nina)
 Allnet Comm. dba Frontier Comm – Docket N98.11.263 (Nina)
 MCI Telecommunications – Docket N98.11.267 (Nina)
 WAXS, Inc. and Cherry Communications – Docket N98.10.237 (Karen)
 Calls for Less, Inc. to ILD Telecommunications – Docket N98.11.259 (Karen)
 US WEST – Docket N98.11.262 (Bonnie)

New Filings Received in Past Week

N98.11.261 – Sprint – Tariff restructure rates, text revisions, and decrease rates
 N98.11.262 – USWC – Tariff 98-49 customer choice price reduction promo
 N98.11.263 – Allnet dba Frontier – Tariff to increase bill increments & surcharge
 D98.11.264 – USWC – NET-Tel & USWC resale agreement phase two
 N98.11.265 – Energy West – Application for electricity suppliers license
 N98.11.267 – MCI – Tariff text change option D & grandfather MAC option G
 D98.11.268 – USWC – Kern vs USWC
 D98.11.269 – Coalition – Coalition for Unfair Utility Competition